

September 29, 2003

Harry T Stewart, P.E., Director
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Water Division
29 Hazen Drive, Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

SUBJECT: Notification of Approval of two Hampton/Seabrook Harbor TMDLs

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for your final submittal of the Hampton/Seabrook Harbor TMDLs for fecal coliform bacteria, which includes the main report (dated August 7, 2003) and supplementary information (Appendix E: Responses to EPA Comments on the Hampton/Seabrook Harbor Bacteria TMDL, dated September 25, 2003). The EPA has determined that TMDLs for two Assessment Units (**NHEST600031004-09-01, NHEST600031004-04-03**) meet the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and of the EPA's implementing regulations (40 CFR Part 130). We, therefore, approve these TMDLs, and have enclosed a copy of our review document.

Approval of these TMDLs is an important step in enabling the State to move forward with on-the-ground measures to improve water quality in the harbor and associated waters. We are pleased that additional data will be collected in the future to evaluate the effectiveness of pollution-control actions, and to determine attainment of water quality standards throughout Hampton/Seabrook Harbor. In particular, we believe that additional information on specific sources (such as marinas, stormdrains and other stormwater sources, and illicit connections) will be necessary to assess attainment in the water segments (known as "assessment units") associated with these TMDLs.

My staff and I congratulate you on producing a comprehensive and informative TMDL report, and look forward to continuing to work with the NH DES to implement requirements under Section 303(d) of the CWA. Please contact me or **Carl DeLoi of my staff if you have any questions or comments on our review.**

Sincerely,

Linda M. Murphy, Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection

Enclosure: EPA Decision Document (EPA Region 1 TMDL Review)

cc: Paul Currier, NH DES
Gregg Comstock, NH DES
Carl DeLoi, EPA
Mel Cote, EPA
Alison Simcox, EPA
Ann Williams, EPA